



TRANMERE BOWLING CLUB

Care of Greens Policy

Aim

To protect the longevity of the club's synthetic greens and, in turn, the continued enjoyment of playing bowls.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to enable all players to continue to play and enjoy the game of lawn bowls without putting our greens at risk. Its focus is to support players, whose bowling action is deemed to be of concern to the care of our greens, to correct their bowling action and in doing so, to keep any damage to an absolute minimum.

Scope

This policy will apply to all members, non-members, guests and visitors who are bowling at Tranmere in Pennant Competitions, Night Owls, Tournaments, Winter Bowls, Friday Morning Bowls, Social bowls and practice sessions.

Definition

The following actions, which have the potential to damage the greens, are covered by this policy:

- Dropping bowls from the bank onto the greens
- Delivering a bowl from a height that may cause damage to the playing surface
- Delivering a bowl that may be a throw
- Wearing inappropriate footwear
- Sitting on the bank with feet compromising the integrity of the edge of the playing surface.

Process (Club Members)

A Care of Greens sub-committee has been established whose role is to assist Tranmere members whose actions are deemed to be of concern.

The sub-committee may consist of the following - an accredited coach, the greens manager (or representative), a bowling-arm bowler and two other club members, one a man and the other a woman.

- An announcement making bowlers aware of our Care of Greens Policy will be made prior to commencement of all bowling competitions.

- Identified players will be sent a respectful letter from the sub-committee saying why they have been identified.
- Players will be offered the assistance of club coaches and/or members to focus on delivery technique and change of action. This may include a video capture of their delivery (with permission) assistance from club coaches, members already using a bowling balance stick or bowling arm. The club has a selection of bowling arms to borrow and practise with.
- If the above methods are not accepted by the bowler, they will be required to use a dumping mat.
- Setting out a reasonable time frame within which the player's delivery problem is expected to be addressed.
- A review by the subcommittee.
- Should the desired result not be achieved, discuss with the member any other possible solutions.
- When the set timeframe has expired the subcommittee will review each player and report to the bowls committee then a further letter will be sent from the bowl's committee to:

either thank the player for their efforts and advising the player that they are welcome to continue playing on our greens; **or**

advising the player that their continued bowling action is no longer acceptable and that the use of the club greens are no longer available to them until they rectify the problem, but also advising them that they are still a valued member of the club and welcome to use the club's facilities.

Process (Pennant Bowlers Visiting the Club)

Prior to the start of the Pennant season Tranmere Bowling Club will send a letter to all visiting clubs outlining our Care of Greens policy and asking them to make their players aware of our concerns and to respect our decisions on the day.

The determination as to whether a player's bowling action is of concern to the care of our greens, rests with the Greens Manager or, in their absence, the relevant side manager.

When a player is deemed to be damaging our greens the side manager, will inform the opposing side manager:

either at the end of the match, if the bowling action is not serious enough to warrant immediate attention; **or**

immediately, if the bowling action is serious enough to warrant immediate attention.

Where the bowling action is serious enough to warrant immediate attention, the opposing side manager will be asked to direct the player in question to

either adjust their bowling action appropriately or to use a dumping mat if they are to continue playing on the day. The umpire of the day is to be advised that such action is being taken.

If the player refuses to comply with that direction, the player in question will not be allowed to continue to bowl and the team in which they are bowling may:

- Use a substitute player, if one is available, or
- Play with one less bowler in the rink, if the conditions of play allow for that, or
- Forfeit that rink where the conditions of play do not allow the team to play with one player short

A damage to greens infringement notice, detailing the course of action taken, will be provided to the opposing side manager and a copy will be submitted to Bowls SA at the end of the match.

Social Bowlers

When a player is deemed to be damaging our greens and is reported to the green's manager or the organiser of the day, he/she where possible, will approach the player making them aware of their incorrect action. This shall be followed up by recording the action taken and forwarding details to the bowls Care of Green's sub-committee.

ADOPTED by the BOWLS SECTION COMMITTEE on 1 DECEMBER 2020